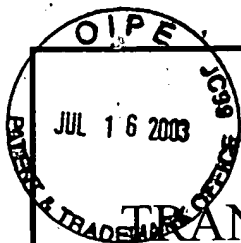


3652 \$/



TRANSMITTAL FORM

Application Serial Number	09/897,820
Filing Date	June 29, 2001
First Named Inventor	Soucy
Group Art Unit	3652
Examiner Name	S. Bratlie
Attorney Docket No.	APE-001
Patent No.	Not applicable
Issue Date	Not applicable

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Fee Transmittal Form <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Response <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Letter to Official Draftsperson including Drawings [Total Sheets ____] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Petition for Extension of Time <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Form PTO-1449 <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of IDS Citations <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Sequence Listing submission <input type="checkbox"/> Paper Copy/CD <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Readable Copy <input type="checkbox"/> Statement verifying identity of above	<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Notice to File Missing Parts of Application <input type="checkbox"/> Formal Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Request For Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney (Revocation of Prior Powers) <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Executed Declaration and Power of Attorney for Utility or Design Patent Application <input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity Statement <input type="checkbox"/> CD(s) for large table or computer program <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment After Allowance <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Certificate of Correction <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Correction (in duplicate)	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Appeal to Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Brief (in triplicate) <input type="checkbox"/> Status Inquiry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt Postcard <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certificate of First Class Mailing under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Facsimile Transmission under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Enclosure(s) (please identify below)
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GROUP 3600

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Direct all correspondence to: Patent Administrator
Testa, Hurwitz & Thibault, LLP
High Street Tower
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Tel. No.: (617) 248-7000
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SIGNATURE BLOCK

Respectfully submitted,

 Date: July 14, 2003
 Reg. No. 42,545
 Tel. No.: (617) 248-7675
 Fax No.: (617) 248-7100
 John V. Forcier
 Attorney for the Applicants
 Testa, Hurwitz & Thibault, LLP
 High Street Tower
 125 High Street
 Boston, MA 02110

FEE TRANSMITTAL **FY 2003**

Complete if Known

Application Serial Number	09/897,820
Filing Date	June 29, 2001
First Named Inventor	Soucy
Group Art Unit	3652
Examiner Name	S. Bratlie
Attorney Docket No.	APE-001

METHOD OF PAYMENT

- ☒ Payment Enclosed:
☒ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Other
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit or charge any fee indicated below for this submission to Deposit Account No. 20-0531.
☐ Required Fees (copy of this sheet enclosed).
☒ Additional fee required under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17.
☒ Overpayment Credit.
- ☒ Applicant claims small entity status.

FEE CALCULATION

1. FILING FEE

Large Entity

Fee (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
750	Utility filing fee	
330	Design filing fee	
160	Provisional filing fee	

Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate	Amount
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Total Claims - 20 = x \$ 18.00 =

Independent Claims - 3 = x \$ 84.00 =

☐ Multiple Dependent Claim(s), if any \$280.00 =

TOTAL:
SMALL ENTITY DISCOUNT:

SUBTOTAL (1) (\$)

2. AMENDMENT CLAIM FEES

Claims Remaining After Amend.	Highest No. Previously Paid For	Present Extra	Rate	Fee Paid
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Total - = x \$ 18.00 =

Indep. - = x \$ 84.00 =

☐ First Presentation of Multiple Dep. Claim + \$280.00 =

TOTAL: (\$)
SMALL ENTITY DISCOUNT: (\$)

SUBTOTAL (2) (\$)

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Entity Fee (\$)	Small Entity Fee (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
130	65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
50	25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
130	130	Non-English specification	
2,520	2,520	Request for ex parte reexamination	
110	55	Extension for reply within first month	55.00
410	205	Extension for reply within second month	
930	465	Extension for reply within third month	
1450	725	Extension for reply within fourth month	
1970	985	Extension for reply within fifth month	
320	160	Notice of Appeal	
320	160	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
280	140	Request for oral hearing	
130	130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
180	180	Submission of Information Disclosure Statement	
750	375	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a))	
750	375	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b))	
100	100	Certificate of Correction for applicant's error	

Other fee (Specify)

Other fee (Specify)

SUBTOTAL (3) (\$ 55.00)

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SUBTOTAL (1)

SUBTOTAL (2)

SUBTOTAL (3) 55.00

TOTAL (\$ 55.00)

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

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Respectfully submitted

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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. APE-001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Soucy et al.
SERIAL NO.: 09/897,820 GROUP NO.: 3652
FILING DATE: June 29, 2001 EXAMINER: S. Bratlie
TITLE: Apparatus and Methods for Semiconductor Wafer Processing Equipment

CERTIFICATE OF FIRST CLASS MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence, and any document(s) referred to as enclosed herein, is/are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 14th day of July, 2003.


Karina L. Branzetti

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith are:

Transmittal Form (1 pg.);
Fee Transmittal Form (1 pg.);
Check in the amount of \$55.00;
Response (3 pgs.);
Petition for Extension of Time (1 pg.); and
Return receipt postcard

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Recy
08/08/03
#7

PATENT
Atty. Docket No. APE-001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Soucy et al. CONFIRMATION NO. 2518
SERIAL NUMBER: 09/897,820 GROUP NUMBER: 3652
FILING DATE: June 29, 2001 EXAMINER: S. Bratlie
TITLE: Apparatus and Methods for Semiconductor Wafer Processing Equipment

RESPONSE

This paper is submitted in response to the pending Office action, Paper No. 7, mailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on March 12, 2003, for which the shortened statutory period was set to expire on June 12, 2003. Applicants hereby request a one month extension of time until July 12, 2003 and enclose a check for \$55.00 with the enclosed Petition. The extended deadline for response is automatically extended to Monday, July 14, 2003 under 37 CFR § 1.7. In the event that any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 20-0531. Please consider the following remarks.

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,013,920 to Gordon et al. (hereinafter "Gordon") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,068,668 to Mastroianni (hereinafter "Mastroianni"), U.S. Patent Nos. 6,375,403, 6,071,059, and 5,772,386 to Mages et al. (hereinafter "Mages"), PCT Application No. WO 00/33376 to Ishikawa (hereinafter "Ishikawa"), U.S. Patent No. 6,138,721 to Bonora et al. (hereinafter "Bonora"), and SEMI E57-0299.

Claims 1-17 are currently pending and presented for reconsideration. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gordon in view of Mastroianni, Mages, Ishikawa, Bonora, and SEMI E57-0299. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the following remarks.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Gordon, Mastroianni, Mages, Ishikawa, Bonora, nor SEMI E57-0299 teach, at least, a device having a work volume for a door opening mechanism, wherein the volume has a height, width, and depth, and the depth does not exceed 80 mm from a seal plane, as recited in independent claim 1. None of the prior art references discloses the claimed work volume and a door opening mechanism that can operate within the claimed work volume. Conventional prior art door opening mechanisms require a larger work volume depth. Should Applicants be in error, as to the teachings of these references, Applicants respectfully request citation to the relevant disclosure in the references.

Applicants further submit that neither Gordon, Mastroianni, Mages, Ishikawa, Bonora, nor SEMI E57-0299 teach, at least, a seismic anchoring device disposed through an underside of a kinematic shelf, as recited in independent claim 16. The claimed seismic anchor is in addition to the kinematic pins and is used to lock the pod door opener into position after the opener is positioned on the pins. See Applicants' disclosure at page 13, paragraph 38.

As such, neither Gordon, Mastroianni, Mages, Ishikawa, Bonora, nor SEMI E57-0299, alone or in proper combination, teaches or suggests each and every element of Applicants' independent claims 1 and 16 and, therefore, dependent claims 2-15 and 17, as well. Accordingly,

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

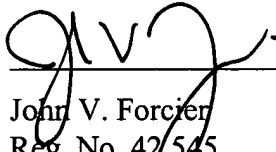
CONCLUSION

In view of all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration, withdrawal of all grounds of rejection and objection, and allowance of claims 1-17 in due course. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at the number listed below to discuss any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 14, 2003

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